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Message Text

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44
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

ARAE-00 /095 W
---------- 100414
P R 281405Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8494
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 0329

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD BB OAS IA-ECOSOC
SUBJ: TRADE ACT - IA-ECOSOC STUDY

REF: (A) STATE 035339 (B) BTN 0309 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

1. IN EMBASSY'S JUDGEMENT GOB WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE LIKELY TO BE OPENLY SUPPORTIVE OF US ON MATTER OF TRADE BILL AT IA-ECOSOC MEETING MARCH 10-15 (PARA 3 REFTEL (A). GOB PERCEPTION OF ITS REGIONAL INTERESTS IS THAT IT MUST BE SENSITIVE OR AT LEAST APPEAR TO BE SENSITIVE TO ISSUES WHICH DIRECTLY AFFECT ITS SOUTHERN NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY VENEZUELA, AND GOB IS THUS NOT LIKELY TO TAKE ACTION AT THIS TIME WHICH WOULD TEND TO DIMINISH ITS EFFORTS TO SEEK SOLIDARITY WITH LA NATIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN CARIBBEAN REGION, ON WIDE RANGE OF MATTERS.

2. AS NOTED REFTEL (B), BARBADOS AND ITS CARICOM PARTNERS DO,
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HOWEVER, WISH TO REAP BENEFITS OF TRADE ACT'S GENERALIZED SYSTEM

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OF PREFERENCES AND WILL NOT LIKELY TAKE ACTION WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE DESIGNATIONS AS BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRY (BDC). GOB RELUCTANCE TO CLASH WITH LA NEIGHBORS ON TRADE ACT ISSUED, HOWEVER, WOULD INDICATE THAT US INTERESTS MIGHT BE BETTER SERVED BY LOWER LEVEL GOB ATTENDANCE AT IA-ECOSOC MEETING. (WE PRESUME GOB AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON WILL ATTEND.)

3. WE DO FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REEMPHASIZE TO GOB POSITIVE ASPECTS OF TRADE ACT AND POINT OUT DISTORTED COMMENTS ON THIS LEGISLATION NOW BEING MADE BY LA CRITICS. UNLESS DEPARTMENT HAS OBJECTIONS, WE WILL PASS GOB NOTE MAKING THESE POINTS AND REFERRING TO UPCOMING IA-ECOSOC MEETING.
BRITTON

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